

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (previously presented) A combination valve support and sealing element for use in a filter cartridge wherein the filter cartridge includes an annular filter element having a hollow core and an end cap and is disposed in a housing closed by an end plate having a central opening surrounded by an array of radial openings spaced a fixed radial distance from the central opening, the combination valve support and sealing element comprising:

a unitary body of flexible resilient material;

the unitary body having a central opening of a constant diameter, which central opening is coaxial with the central opening of the end plate, the diameter of the central opening being less than the diameter of the area circumscribed by the radial openings;

the unitary body having a first annular section which projects into the hollow core of the filter element for sealing with the filter element and a second section coextensive with the first section, the first annular section having an annular sealing ring thereon for sealing with the end cap and, the second section sealing only with the end plate around the central opening through the end plate;

the unitary body having a radially projecting flange which is axially spaced from the second section and projects radially beyond the spaced radial openings in the end plate for sealing around the spaced radial openings to provide an anti-drainback valve;

a plurality of radially extending ribs on the radially extending flange, the radially extending ribs having rib portions projecting axially on the first annular section of the unitary body and being axially spaced from the annular sealing ring on the first annular section of the unitary body, which annular sealing ring deflects inwardly when the filter element is clogged in order to provide a bypass for fluid when fluid is unable to flow through the filter element, and

a clean side valve unitary with the unitary body for preventing pre-filling of the cartridge.

Claim 9 (Original) The combination valve support and sealing element of claim 8 wherein the clean side valve is a purse valve supported on a plate which spans the central opening of the unitary body, the purse valve being comprised of a pair of lips which are normally closed.

Claim 10 (Original) The combination valve support and sealing element of claim 8 wherein the axially extending rib portions engage an end cap on the filter element to support the filter element and provide axially extending gaps therebetween and wherein oil applies pressure to the sealing ring, which pressure causes to the sealing ring to deflect inwardly when a preselected pressure indicative of a clogged filter element is reached.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A valve support and sealing element in combination with a filter cartridge in which the filter cartridge includes an annular filter element having a hollow

core and end cap with a flange that extends into the hollow core, the filter cartridge being disposed in a housing closed by an end plate having a central opening surrounded by an array of radial openings spaced a fixed radial distance from the central opening, the combination comprising:

a unitary body of flexible resilient material;

the unitary body having a central opening of a constant diameter, which central opening is coaxial with the central opening of the end plate, the diameter of the central opening being less than the diameter of the area circumscribed by the radial openings;

the unitary body having a first annular section which projects into the hollow core of the filter element for sealing with the filter element and a second section coextensive with the first annular section, the first annular section having an annular sealing ring thereon for sealing with the flange of the end cap and, the second section sealing only with the end plate around the central opening through the end plate;

the unitary body having a radially projecting flange which is axially spaced from the second section and projects radially beyond the spaced radial openings in the end plate for sealing around the spaced radial openings to provide an anti-drainback valve,

a plurality of radially extending ribs on the radially extending flange, the radially extending ribs having rib portions projecting axially on the first annular section of the unitary body and being axially spaced from the annular sealing ring on the first section of the unitary

body member, which annular sealing ring deflects inwardly when the filter element is clogged in order to provide a bypass for oil when oil is unable to flow through the filter element, and
a clean side valve unitary with the unitary valve body for preventing pre-filling of the cartridge.

Claim 12 (Original) The combination valve support and sealing element of claim 11 wherein the clean side valve is a purse valve supported on a plate which spans the central opening of the unitary body, the purse valve being comprised of a pair of lips which are normally closed.

Claim 13 (Original) The combination of claim 12 wherein axially extending rib portions engage the end cap on the filter element to support the filter element and provide axially extending gaps therebetween and wherein oil applies pressure to the sealing ring, which pressure causes the sealing ring to deflect inwardly away from the end cap flange when a preselected pressure indicative of a clogged filter element is reached.

Claim 14 (Original) The combination of claim 12 wherein the flexible resilient material of the unitary body is rubber.

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Claims 15-17 (Canceled)